

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-97. (Canceled)

98. (Previously Presented) A method for supporting establishment of a connection between a node of an inside address realm and a node of an outside address realm through an intermediate communication gateway having a limited number of available outside-realm gateway addresses for enabling outside-realm representation of inside-realm nodes, said method comprising the steps of:

identifying, based on network address information of at least one of the inside-realm node and the outside-realm node an outside-realm gateway address that, in combination with the network address information, defines an outside-realm gateway state representation that has no counterpart in a predetermined set of existing gateway connection states; and

initiating establishment of the connection based on the identified outside-realm gateway state representation.

99. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 98, wherein the identifying step includes identifying the outside-realm gateway address based on a combination of the network address information and port information of at least one of the inside-realm node and the outside-realm node.

100-104. (Cancelled)

105. (Previously Presented) A communication gateway system for supporting establishment of a connection between a node of an inside address realm and a node of an outside address realm, said system having a limited number of available outside-realm gateway addresses for enabling outside-realm representation of inside-realm nodes, said system comprising:

a gateway resource manager for identifying, based on network address information of at least one of the inside-realm node and the outside-realm node an outside-realm gateway address that, in combination with the network address information, defines an outside-realm gateway state representation that has no counterpart in a predetermined set of existing gateway connection states; and a gateway for initiating establishment of the connection based on the identified outside-realm gateway state representation.

* * *